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NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Philip and Anna Parrish Kirchner Log House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 4969 120th Avenue not for publication

city or town Peterson vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Clay code 041 zip code 51047

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David C. [Signature] 7/6/93
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State Historical Society of Iowa
 State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Delana [Signature] **entered in the National Register**

Date of Action

8/2/93

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

RECREATION AND CULTURE:

Museum

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE:

Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Hewn Log House

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD: Log

roof WOOD

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1867; 1910

Significant Dates

1867; 1910

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Kirchner, Philip and Anna Parrish

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Julia Heywood Booth

Kirchner Log House
Name of Property

Clay County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 5	3 0 8 5 0 5	4 7 5 5 3 2 5
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Greg Olson

organization _____ date 13 June 1993

street & number 902 Broadhead Street telephone 314-442-2461

city or town Columbia state MO zip code 65203

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Julia Heywood Booth

street & number 4969 120th Avenue telephone 712-295-7416

city or town Peterson state IA zip code 51047

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Philip and Anna Parrish Kirchner Log House
Clay County, Iowa

Description

The Kirchner log house was built in 1867 by Philip Kirchner (1844-1903) and his wife, Anna Parrish Kirchner (1845-1890), near the Little Sioux River on a half section (320 acres) of land located just north of the town of Peterson, Iowa. It is constructed of logs found on the farm-site and dimension lumber sawn at a saw mill in Peterson. The sill and center log joists are laid on a series of foundation stones. The logs are joined at the corners, primarily with V-notches, and are trimmed close to the corners. Some of the upper logs, however, are notched with saddle lap joints and the logs protrude past the corners. As the logs do not fit tightly on top of one another, vertical spaces are filled with chinking.

On the first floor, the one-room floor plan includes a door at the center of the west side, a window at the center of the south, a door and window on the east side, which is probably the front, and a blind north side. On the loft level, one window is located at the center of each of the gable ends. All windows are 6/6 style sash windows. Floor and loft decking are sawn 1x12's over 2x8 joists, set anywhere from 1'7" to 1'9" on center. A trap door on the floor leads to an earth cellar, which is now nearly filled in, and stairs in the northwest corner lead to the loft. The roof is supported by 2x4 and 4x4 rafters--there is no ridge pole--set roughly every 2'. Rough sawn 1" sheathing boards support wood shingles.

During the time the house was occupied, heating and cooking were done with a wood stove which was in the center of the north half of the main floor. No fireplace was built into the house. At some point, a frame constructed summer kitchen was added to the west side of the house and a blacksmith shed, also of frame construction, was added to the north side.

After the death of Philip Kirchner, in 1903, the property was purchased by his sister, Charlotte Kirchner Butler (1846-1932), in 1907. Under her supervision, the log house was restored around 1910. This restoration included the replacement of some logs, window frames, shingles and possibly all or part of the roof. The family maintains that great care was taken to duplicate original construction techniques, such as they were. Mrs. Butler was probably responsible for the removal of the summer kitchen and the blacksmith shed, which had not

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Continuation Sheet**

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CFN-259-1116

**Philip and Anna Parrish Kirchner Log House
Clay County, Iowa**

Description (continued)

been part of the original log construction. Thus the log house entered the second decade of the twentieth century looking much the same as it must have in the 1860's.

There are no indications that the house has changed significantly since its restoration more than 80 years ago. The main physical concern by the time Julia Heywood Booth inherited the farm in 1977 was its deterioration. Sometime while the property was owned by Mrs. Butler's daughter, Hortense Butler Heywood (1884-1977), a concrete "foundation" was poured around the base of the building, probably with the idea that it would hold the lower logs in place and stabilize the settling of the logs. While it is feared that this "foundation" has kept air from the sill logs and that there may be significant rot beneath, inspection of logs on the west side, still accessible through a crawl space where the cellar once was, reveals that at least the west sill log and the center joist log are sound. As the building settled further, the east door became unusable until Mrs. Booth chopped out some of the concrete sometime in the 1970's.

The unfinished root cellar, which is located under the southern two-thirds of the west half of the floor, has filled to within about 24" of the floor. In several places, 2x4 supports have been placed upright beneath the floor to keep it from sagging.

As the log house is in situ, the cellar presents an interesting location for possible archaeological investigation. The sites of the summer kitchen, on the west side of the house and the blacksmith shed, on the north side, also present sites for possible surface archaeology study.

For the most part, the log walls seem to be fairly sound. At least one log, however, has shifted out of place and will require adjustment. While the logs seem to be generally free of serious rot, a more detailed inspection should be carried out to determine specific problem spots.

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Section number 7,8 Page 3

Philip and Anna Parrish Kirchner Log House
Clay County, Iowa

Description (continued)

Since 1990, the log walls have been gradually re-chinked. In this process, the old chinking--some of the chinking from the 1910 restoration may be cement--was removed where it was loose and replaced with a mixture of hydrated lime and sharp sand recommended by Darrell Henning, the Director of the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa. When compared to early photographs, it is evident that the entire building has settled with the most visible signs of this found on the west wall.

Statement of Significance

The Philip and Anna Parrish Kirchner log house is locally significant under National Register Criterion A for its twofold association with the county's pioneer settlement and with the later turn-of-the century restoration efforts to honor these pioneer times in Northwest Iowa. Also, the log building's eligibility is enhanced by having been preserved in situ. The dates of significance for this property are 1867, representing the pioneer settlement of Clay county, and 1910, representing the restoration of the log house.

The Kirchner log house was built in 1867 by Philip Kirchner (1844-1903), one of eleven children of Christian and Magdalena Nipgen Kirchner, German immigrants who arrived in America in 1841. The family originally settled near Albany, New York, but when Philip's older brother, A. J. "Gust" Kirchner, claimed a half section (320 acres) of land along the Little Sioux River in southwest Clay County, Iowa, in 1856, they became members of the county's first group of white settlers.

It was to this half-section that Philip and his wife, Anna Parrish Kirchner (1845-1890), moved in 1867, building the log house as their first home. The couple, who had no children, lived in the house, to which they later added a summer kitchen and blacksmith shed, until they built a large two-story frame house just a few yards away in 1882.

In 1903, Philip Kirchner died and the farm, which by that time included a barn and tenant house, built around 1890, was offered for sale. The property was purchased by Charlotte Kirchner Butler (1846-1932), Philip's sister, who made it her permanent home. Soon after, probably around 1910, Mrs. Butler began restoration of the log house.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Philip and Anna Parrish Kirchner Log House
Clay County, Iowa

Statement of Significance (Continued)

Charlotte Kirchner Butler had studied at Grinnell College and Iowa University in the mid 1860's and was, at one time, Dean of Women at Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, Illinois. Her interest in the local history of Peterson and the preservation of the log house may have stemmed from an incident she witnessed at age ten, several months after her family moved to Clay County.

During the difficult winter of 1857, a Sioux named Inkpadutah and about 60 of his followers, approximately 19 of whom were warriors, made their way north along the Little Sioux River looking for food. They stopped in Peterson, confronting several families, including the Kirchners, and stealing food and weapons. They continued North, conducting a series of similar raids which were to climax in March at Lake Okoboji, where 32 whites were killed in what has become known as the Spirit Lake Massacre.

Mrs. Butler may have seen the Philip Kirchner log house, though built a full decade after Inkpadutah's raid on Peterson, as a vivid symbol of this and other stories of the early settlement of Clay County and Northwest Iowa. Certainly, the story of this raid is recounted in several newspaper articles about the house and is still told by Julia Heywood Booth, Charlotte Kirchner's granddaughter, to those who visit the site today.

Abigail Gardner Sharp, the lone survivor of the Spirit Lake Massacre, envisioned a similar shrine to the pioneer spirit when she purchased the Gardner Cabin (NRHP), her childhood home and site of some of the massacre, in 1891, and turned it into a privately run historic site.

Newspaper accounts of the Kirchner log house as a site of historic interest date back, at least, to the 1920's. One undated clipping commemorates the house's 50th anniversary. It seems clear that, soon after its restoration, the house became a popular site of local interest and, at some point, pioneer and Native American artifacts belonging to the family, many originally items used in the Philip Kirchner household, were put on display inside the house, where they remain today.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5Philip and Anna Parrish Kirchner Log House
Clay County, Iowa

Statement of Significance (Continued)

The regional popularity of the structure is made further evident by a plan, sometime in the 1920's, to relocate both the Kirchner and Evan Jones log houses to the Clay County Fairgrounds in Spencer. It was believed that these were the last two log houses built in the county and were the only two extant at the time of the plan. The idea, however, did not enjoy the backing of Mrs. Butler and nothing ever came of it. In 1928, the Jones House, located four miles west of Spencer, was demolished due to its advanced state of deterioration.

When Charlotte Butler died in 1932, the farm was inherited by her daughter, Hortense Butler Heywood (1884-1977). Mrs. Heywood was trained in entomology and while at Cornell University in the late 1920's, co-wrote A Handbook of the Dragonflies of North America with Dr. James Needham. She also wrote and published several articles on country life and continued the practice of conducting free tours through the log house for school children and the curious public. A Sioux City Journal article written in the early 1940's and a Des Moines Register feature written and illustrated over twenty-five years later by cartoonist Frank Miller indicate that the house gained a statewide reputation during those years.

After the death of Mrs. Heywood, in 1977, the property was passed on to her daughter, Julia Heywood Booth, who owns the farm today. Through the inheritance of the farm, Mrs. Booth has acquired one of the most complete and well documented family histories an heir could hope for. Still on the site it was built 126 years ago, the Kirchner Log House, with its display of family artifacts, is an important landmark of the family's beginnings in Clay County. The larger house, built in 1882, along with the barn and tenant house from 1890, trace the growth and success of the farm during the last decades of the nineteenth century. The farm still operates today under the direction of Mrs. Booth.

The addition of photographs and the writings of all three women--Mrs. Booth has contributed to a published history of Peterson and has published articles in the Iowan--helps to create a complete picture of the history of one family which spans the entire period of white settlement of Northwest Iowa.

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Philip and Anna Parrish Kirchner Log House
Clay County, Iowa

Bibliography

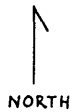
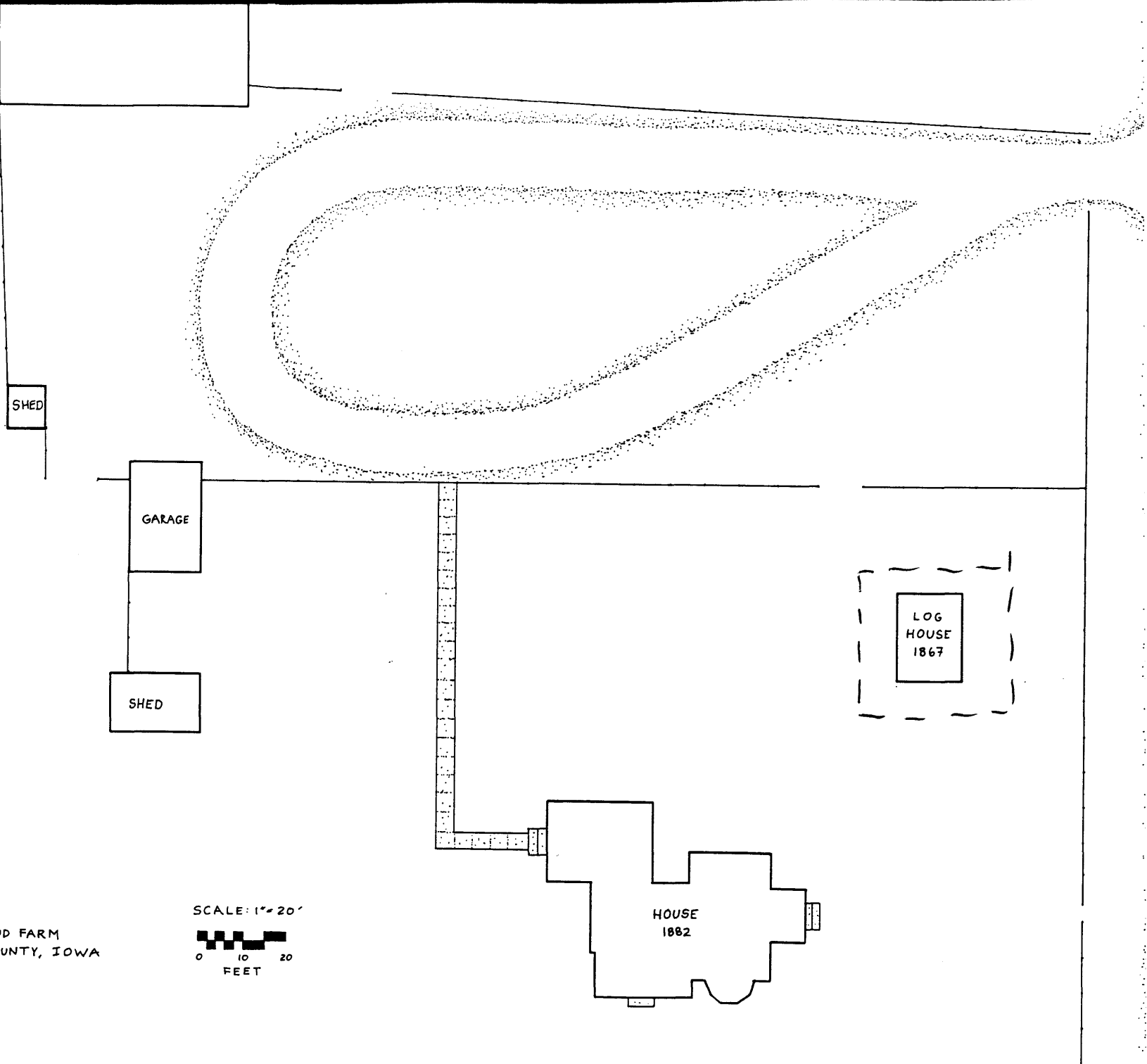
- Fraser, Ruth. "Old Log Cabin at Peterson, Ia., Still Standing in Nearly Perfect Condition." The Sioux City Journal Magazine c. 1942.
- "Log Cabin Erected Half Century Ago." The Sioux City Daily Tribune N.D.
- Miller, Frank. "Pioneer Cabin: Symbol for Americans." The Des Moines Register c. 1965.
- "Old Clay County Log Cabin Crumbles, but Second One Is Still Defying Elements." The Des Moines Register 5 August 1928.
- "Peterson's Famous Landmark." The Peterson Patriot 27 January 1927.
- "This Old Log Cabin Is Still Kept in Repair." The Sioux City Tribune 28 October 1926.
- "When Grandpa Built a Home Here[,] He Built to Last, Camera Shows." The Spencer Daily Reporter 5 June 1939.

Verbal boundry description

1105 feet North and 520 feet West of the Southwest corner of Section 28, T94N, R38W.

Verbal boundry justification

Includes only the log house.



SITE PLAN
THE OAKS
KIRCHNER-HEYWOOD FARM
PETERSON, CLAY COUNTY, IOWA



DRAWN BY GREG OLSON
17 MARCH 1993